INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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EXCISE

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S E C R E T SAIGON 22728

EXDIS

SUB: NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

REF: A. SAIGON 22727
B. STATE 170345
C. SAIGON 22406

1. FOLLOWING MY DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER KY TODAY ON THE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PROCLAMATION (REFERENCE A), I SPOKE TO HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING SOME KIND OF QUIET CHANNEL TO THE VIET CONG/NLF WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING ABOUT SOME HIGH LEVEL DEFECTIONS (REFTELS B AND C), I SAID THAT IT HAD OCCURRED TO US THAT WITH THE POLITICAL PROGRESS ALREADY ACHIEVED IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THERE MIGHT BE SOME POSSIBILITIES FOR PROBING TO SEE OF THERE WERE ANY PROSPECTS FOR EVENTUAL HIGH-LEVEL DEFECTIONS FROM THESE GROUPS. I

PAGE 2 RUMJIR S E C R E T
ALSO ASKED KY WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE SOME KINDS OF POSITIVE INDUCEMENTS IN THE POLITICAL FIELD WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN ENCOURAGING DEFECTIONS, NOTING THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS HERE IN SEPTMEMBER AND OCTOBER.

2. KY SAID HE WAS ALWAYS GLAD TO COOPERATE IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECALLED RECENT CASE [redacted] BUT NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. THESE THINGS MOVE VERY, [redacted] SLOWLY BECAUSE THE VIET CONG WHO WOULD LIKE TO DEFECT ARE AFRAID OF ASSASSINATION. IT TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF PATIENCE. COMMENT: IT IS TRUE THAT HE IS ALWAYS WILLING TO COOPERATE ON AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE CONTACT. END COMMENT.

SAIGON 22723, -4-11-67

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 10/6/81
BORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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3. KY AGREED THAT THE VIET CONG MILITARY LEADERS WERE THE ONES WHO REALLY CONTROLLED THE NLF AND SAID THAT NLF LEADERS SUCH AS THO AND PHAT COULD NOT TAKE ANY STEPS TOWARD CONTACT WITH THE GVN WITHOUT RISKING IMMEDIATE ASSASSINATION FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FRONT. HE WAS THEREFORE, NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT ANYTHING MEANINGFUL COULD BE DONE AT THIS TIME.

4. IN TERMS OF INDUCEMENTS KY CITED THE TERMS OF THE NEW NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PROCLAMATION AND THE PROVISION OF

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 22728 S E C R E T
THE NEW CONSTITUTION WHICH ALLOWED EVERY CITIZEN TO VOTE AND RUN FOR OFFICE.

5. THE WHOLESALE USE OF ASSASSINATION AND TORTURE BY THE VIET CONG AUTHORITIES, HE THOUGHT, ARE THE REAL OBSTACLE AND NOT THE FAILURE OF THE GVN TO OFFER INDUCEMENTS. b-1 ec

[redacted] AN OFFER OF MONEY IS NOT MUCH OF AN INDUCEMENT WHEN THE OTHER SIDE CAN OFFER THE CERTAINTY OF DEATH.

GP-3. LODGE
BT

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